

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 17942 180305Z

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ACTION OFA-01

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R 180232Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO NMFS SEATTLE WA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5594

UNCLAS TOKYO 17942

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: GROUND FISH OBSERVER PROGRAM

1. JAPAN FISHERIES AGENCY HAS RAISED SEVERAL QUESTIONS REGARDING CONDUCT OF THE OBSERVER PROGRAM. FIRST, IS THE INPFC CLOSED-AREA EXPERIMENTAL TRAWLING PROJECT IN ADDITION TO EXISTING OBSERVER PROGRAM, I.E., 2 MOTHERSHIPS AND TWO TRAWLERS IN THE BERING SEA, 2 TRAWLERS IN THE GULF OF ALASKA EACH QUARTER.

2. IF JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS PLAN TO ENTER FOREIGN PORT GOJ LAW REQUIRES SPECIAL PERMISSION AND SHOTS FOR CREW PRIOR TO DEPARTURE JAPAN. AGENCY WISHES TO KNOW IF OBSERVERS COULD BE TRANSFERED BY US CARRIER WHILE JAPANESE VESSEL IS OUTSIDE DUTCH HARBOR. SUCH A TRANSFER WOULD ELIMATE SOME PROBLEMS FOR JAPANESE FISHING COMPANIES TAKING PART IN THE EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT.

3. JAPANESE FISHING COMPANIES HAVE ASKED IF OBSERVERS SCHEDULED FOR DUTY DURING JANUARY COULD BE TRANSFERED AT SEA TO VESSELS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY EXPERIMENTAL FISHERY. SUCH A TRANSFER WOULD RESULT IN THOSE OBSERVERS BEING AT SEA FOR TWO MONTHS RATHER THAN ONE MONTH AS NOW PLANNED. THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE OF CARRIER VESSELS AT THAT TIME OF YEAR.

4. REGFISHATT WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY ASAP.
HODGSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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